



**Frederick County  
Government  
Frederick, Maryland**

# *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **COMMISSIONERS PROPOSE REVISIONS TO FREDERICK COUNTY PLUMBING CODE**

**FREDERICK, MD** – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners recently considered an [ordinance to amend the county's plumbing code](#) by eliminating a grease interceptor requirement for restaurants, kitchens and other non-residential facilities. They also discussed the elimination of a requirement for a professional to hold two licenses to do septic work on a property.

The county's current policy requires an outside 1,600 gallon grease interceptor. Among other things, the proposed ordinance eliminates this requirement and instead would allow the size, type and location of each interceptor to be designed and installed according to the design professionals' instructions and requirements.

The other change would eliminate the requirement for a Master Plumber, licensed with the county, to obtain a separate Septic Installer License in order to do septic work. The commissioners believe that the requirement and additional \$125 fee for licensing is unnecessary.

Board President Blaine Young commented, "These changes to the plumbing code are long overdue and will be well received by the business community. The installation costs and the grease traps themselves are very expensive, especially to small businesses. In many cases they're not even used. Also, the state no longer requires a dual licensing requirement for a Master Plumber, so we are simply updating the county code.

"This ordinance is one more example of our response to many businesses both large and small that believe government rules and regulations are overly burdensome, especially in today's economic climate. We're looking at over 200 such proposals to reduce, alter or eliminate policies to help improve processes for business."

(more)

***Commissioners Propose Revisions to Plumbing Code – Page Two***

The proposed changes were reviewed and supported by staff from the Department of Permits & Inspections, Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management and the Health Department. They were also discussed at the May 26, 2011, Frederick County Advisory Plumbing Board meeting and unanimously supported as well.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed ordinance before it returns to the commissioners for approval on Thursday, September 29.

For further information, contact Department of Permits & Inspections Director Gary Hessong of the Community Development Division at 301-600-1172 or via e-mail at [ghessong@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:ghessong@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

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